1162.c.39(2)

THE

Christian's Closet-Piece.

BEING

An Exhortation to all People

To forsake their SINS,

Which too much Reign in the present Age: As Pride, Envy, Hatred, Disobedience to Parents, Drunkenness, Sabbath-breaking, and Whoredom; the Causes of our Miseries.

Also a loud Call to Repentance, in a HYMN.

Together with Prayers for Morning and Evening, and every day in the Week.

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THE

Chriſtian's Cloſet-Piece.

MY friends, I've liv'd among you many years,
Behold alas! my hoary head appears:
Pale death will ſoon remove me from you all,
Theſe lines I have write to both great and ſmall.
Lay them in the cloſet of your breaſt
When I ſhall leave this world and be at reſt;
For they'll inform and let you underſtand
What cauſes all the trouble in this land.
All kind of wickedneſs does rule and reign,
Which in ſhort time will prove your fatal bane;
If you in youth are void of grace and fear,
And grow more wicked as you grow in years.
Though God in mercy may a while forbear,
Yet let not proud preſumtuous ſinners dare
To tempt the Lord, leſt he at length ſhould frown,
And on his nation pour his vengeance down.
Young men and maids good council don't deſpiſe
But have the fear of God before your eyes,
While you do flouriſh in your blooming youth,
Let your delight be in the word of truth.
Pray let it be your conſtant rule and guide,
Oh! ſtrive to ſhun that henious ſin of pride,
In which ſo many thouſands waſte their ſtore,
And ſcarce will give one penny to the poor.
By ſadexperience I can boldly ſay,
Many whoſe thoughts are ſpent by night or day
On what to eat or drink, or what to wear,
Do for their precious ſouls take little care.

43.7.6.285.

You know that pride is a notorious ſin,
Then who can any pleaſure take therein.
Great is the crime to offend the Lord,
Who doth us all comfort afford.
The ſin of drunkenneſs too much is us'd,
By which we find God's creatures are abus'd;
And many pounds are ſpent in that exceſs,
Which might releive the poor in ſad diſtreſs.
Can any greater folly e'er by known
Than this, which many men will freely own,
That they are daily at a very great expence
To drown their reaſon, nay their ſouls and ſenſe.
We often ſee the drunken cloath'd with ſhame,
Therefore let me intreat you in Gods name,
That you henceforth will theſe cuſtoms hate,
Which ruin ſoul, body, and eſtate.
The ſin of ſwearing is ſo common grown,
The like in former days was never known;
For when ſome perſons do at variance fall,
Immediately they for damnation call.
If wicked men did firſt conſider well
The ſorrow of the damned ſouls in Hell,
They could not be ſo raſh, nor dare preſume
To call for their dreadful doom.
Bridle thy tongue, and do not curſe and ſwear,
But conſtantly betake thyſelf to pray'r;
That God who governs all things here below,
May keep your conſcience clear where'er you go.
The paths of whoredom pray at all times ſhun,
And from the company of harlots run;
For they like painted ſnakes appear in view,
To ſting our very ſouls and bodies too.
If you by providence to riches riſe,
Pray then be careful that you don't deſpiſe
Your aged parents, when in ſad diſtreſs,
For thoſe that do the Lord will never bleſs.
If with hard uſage your parent's treat,
You will with many griefs and croſſes meet;

For thoſe that make their parents heart to bleed,
May have a child for to revenge the deed.
Likewiſe, ye parents be diſcreet and wiſe,
On you the care of your dear children lies,
Inſtruct and teach them daily, that they may
God's pecepts and his juſt commands obey.
Govern them wiſely, and you'll quickly find,
As you inſtruct them ſo they'll be inclin'd,
But if you train them up to vice when young,
They grieve your ſouls as they grow tall and ſtrong
Teach them to keep the ſabbath-day,
By your example ſhew them the right way
To nouriſh virtue, and then they'll find
Their Parents are to godlineſs inclin'd.
But many thouſands do that day profane,
Some ſeeking after moſt ungodly gain ;
Others in pleaſure paſs the time away,
And quite neglect the duties of the day.
Taverns and alehouſes they moſt frequent,
And here, alas ! much precious time is ſpent,
The fields are full, the churches very thin,
As if that day was ſet apart for ſin.
How can we think the Lord will ever bleſs
Our native kingdoms here with good ſucceſs,
Or that he will us proſper in a war,
If we once more ſhould be engag'd ſo far.
Or that our trade will flouriſh once again,
Or that we ſhould debaſe proud France or Spain,
So long as we God's righteous law offend,
On whoſe good providence we all depend,
Oh! may you now reform your lives with ſpeed
And be good Chriſtians both in word and deed,
Oh! cleanſe your heart from all malicious ſtrife,
And ſeek the paths of everlaſting life.
Dear friends I find I am ready to depart,
Death now, alas ! has touch'd my heart,
Therefore I here muſt take my leave of you,
And with theſe words bid the world adieu.

The Thoughts of future Judgments, and of the Terrors of the LORD: *Being a Call to Sinners to repent.*

An HYMN.

THE day will come when old and young
Muſt at God's bar appear;
And Saints will praiſe, but ſinners bold
God's terrors then will fear.
Throng'd on a cloud the Lord will come,
And on a judgment-ſeat,
To ſinners he'll pronounce their doom,
Which they will dread and hate.
How have you the goſpel heard,
With unattentive ear,
Your thoughts employ'd without regard,
On fleſhly, worldly cares.
From time to time you did delay
Repentance till too late;
Now down to Hell muſt be your way,
By the cœleſtial gate.
And now my ſoul's in Hell, the place
Where wicked perſons go,
Who're unrepented of their ſins,
To die, O dreadful woe!
Sinners awake! awake betimes!
Sleep not while it is day,
But of your great and wilful crimes
Repent while that you may.
Make Chriſt your Saviour and your friend,
Then happy will you be;
And at your death you will aſcend
To God in perſons three.

Prayers for every Day in the Week.

A Prayer for Sunday Morning.

O Eternal God, prepare my heart e ek thee. I have very often fined in abſenting thy houſe; more eſpecially in frequenting it in cold prayers Lord make his day's reſt of my body remind me of that of my ſoul, and let me come before thee with an humble and a contrite ſpirit. All this I beg for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Monday.

O Moſt gracious God, thou art my only happineſs. I ſee my pardon hereafter depends on my choice here. Therefore guide me by thy grace, that I may withdraw my affections from below ana fix them above. Teach me what is acceptable in thy ſight, that I may know my end, and wiſely chuſe my way to thy glory, through Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

A Prayer for Tueſday.

LORD, I beg thee, give me thy holy Spirit, that ſo I may withſtand all temptations of the devil. Let thy grace fortify me againſt the wiles of men, for Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

A Prayer for Wedneſday.

LORD, what am I but a friend of this wicked world. I am a child of wrath, and a ſon of darkneſs. Let not mountains

of ſin oppreſs me, or the world ſo check me, that I may never, like the eagle fly to the carcaſs, but be able to cry for help to thee, who art the bright morning ſtar of comfort to the needy.

A Prayer for Thurſday.

O Lord God, who by thy Almighty power didſt bring water out of a rock, I beſeech thee to ſmite the ſtoney rock of my heart, and make the water of unfeigned repentance to guſh forth. O give me unfeigned repentance, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

A Prayer for Friday.

MOST holy and eternal God, who ſeeſt all my deſires, and my groanings are not hid from thee. O Lord, do thou pardon all my miſeries. O wipe away all my tears from my eyes, and bring me to that bleſſed reſt of thine, which will never end, for thy dear ſon's ſake. Amen.

A Prayer for Saturday.

ETERNAL and gracious God, father of all mercies, and fountain of all happineſs, I thine unworthy ſervant, do with reverence approach thy throne of grace, begging of thee to remove my ſins, leſt I be conſumed. Direct my heart to ſerve thee; and that my repentance may be acceptable, give me grace, that I may be thy ſervant. This I beg for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

A Morning Prayer.

O LORD, Heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlaſting God, who haſt ſafely brought me to the beginning of this Day, defend me in the ſame with thy mighty Power; and grant that this Day I fall into no Sin, neither run into any kind of

Danger; but that all my Doings may be ordered by thy Governnance, to do always that which is righteous in thy Sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. O defend me with thy Heavenly Grace, that I may continue thine for ever; and daily encrease in thy holy Spirit more and more, until I come to thine everlasting Kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

An Evening Prayer.

LIGHTEN my Darkness, I beseech the, O Lord, and by thy great Mercy defend me from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. In his name, O God! I commit myself to thy mercy and protection, both this night and evermore. O Lord! bless and keep me; Lord! make thy Face to shine upon me and give me Peace both now and evermore. Keep me both outwardly in my Body, and from all evil Thoughts that may assault and hurt the Soul, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

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